IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently amended) [[A]] In a face or nose mask for non-invasive ventilation of patients in general, comprising a mask body provided with an inlet for connection to a ventilation apparatus and perimetrically provided with a sealing element for application to the face of a patient, ~~characterized in that~~ the improvement in said face or nose mask wherein said sealing element comprises at least one first chamber and at least one second chamber, said at least one first chamber having a first connector connectable ~~which can be connected separately~~ to a source of pressurized air, and said at least one second chamber having a second connector connectable to the source of pressurized air, and said second chamber capable of being inflated separately from said first chamber.

Claim 2 (Currently amended) The mask according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said first and second chambers have a closed perimeter.

Claim 3 (Currently amended) The mask according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said first and second chamber lie side by side~~, one inside the other~~.

Claims 4 and 5 (Cancelled)

6. (New) A method for sealing a face or nose mask for non-invasive ventilation of patients, comprising the steps of:

providing a mask body having an inlet for connection to a ventilation apparatus and perimetrically including a sealing element for application to a patient's face, said sealing element including a first chamber and a second chamber, said first chamber having a first connector connectable to a source of pressurized air, and said second chamber having a second connector connectable to the source of pressurized air; and

alternately inflating said first chamber while pressure in said second chamber is released, and inflating said second chamber while pressure in said first chamber is released.

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